



EXHIBIT 17  
DATE 3-16-07  
HB 574

# **The Rialto Community Theatre**

March 16, 2007

Chairman Sinrud  
House Appropriations Committee Members  
Montana Legislature

Dear Chairman Sinrud and Appropriations Committee Members,

Members of the board of the Rialto Community Theatre in Deer Lodge and others come before you today to urge you to give favorable consideration to HB574. This legislation would serve as a vehicle to help communities impacted by a disaster to a cultural or historical arts center bring back what they have lost. This is not intended for towns that only wish they had such a facility, but for those who have lost a community center, and realize how important it is to bring that back.

As an organization that would apply for the competitive grants through this program we can tell you first hand how much this assistance is needed. The Rialto, as you can see from the booklet, was a special facility that served many functions in our community. It is the only auditorium in Powell County, and the site of all the local school plays and concerts, dance recitals, children's theater and community plays and concerts, civic events, affordable weekend movies, and even funerals. It was a safe place for our children and an important part of our downtown business district.

We are working hard to raise the funds to rebuild, but will need all the help we can get. We look forward to answering your questions, and hope you will agree with us that this is a critical step in assisting communities with limited resources in Montana after a disaster.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors  
Rialto Community Theatre